

# FY07 SOMERVILLE BUDGET HEARINGS



## Fire Department

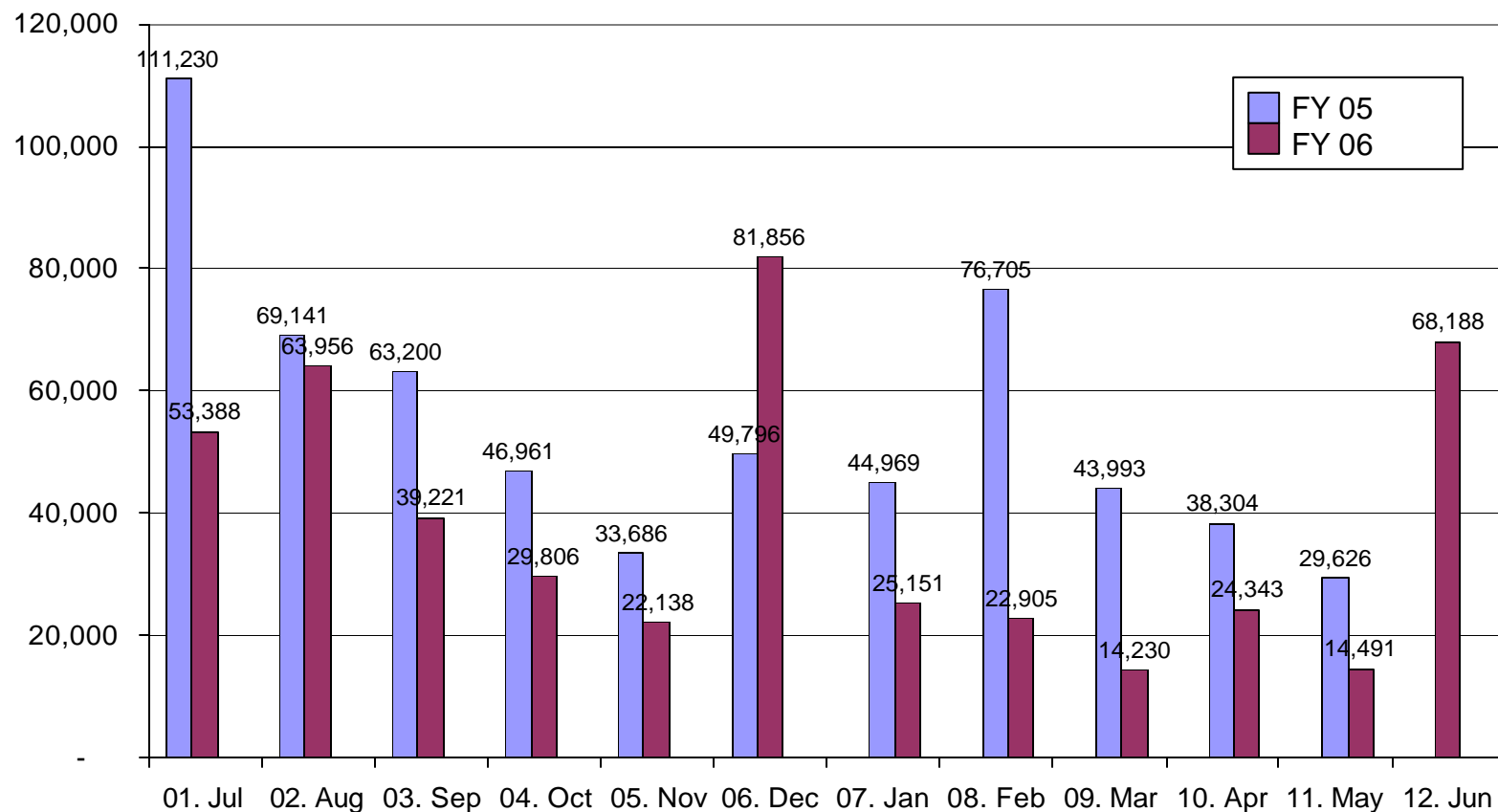
Chief Kevin Kelleher



## 1. FIRE – FY06 Accomplishments & Initiatives

- **Staffing and Organization:**
  - Increased staffing level by two additional firefighters
  - Reduced potential overtime costs by immediately replacing an outgoing operator in the Fire Alarm Division

**Fire OT Spending by Month and Fiscal Year**



## 2. FIRE – FY06 Accomplishments & Initiatives

- **Fire Response:**
  - No fatalities occurred due to fires in FY06
  - Controlled several fires involving multiple buildings
  - Developed system to enforce false alarm ordinance

### **Locations with 6+ Alarms**

*11/1/05 – 5/4/06*

Location	Incidents
BOX 1271/ 33 CROSS ST	18
5 WALDO AV	16
BOX 161/ KENSINGTON AV & BLAKELEY AV	15
BOX 3152/ CORBETT HOUSING - BUILDING B -	13
1 FRANKLIN ST	12
BOX 1383/ BRICK BOTTOM ARTIST COLONY - F	12
HI-VU APARTMENTS / 62 HIGHLAND AV	10
LATIN WAY DORM / 40 LOWER CAMPUS RD	10
BOX 1423/ ROYAL INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES	9
WORLD REVIVAL CHURCH / 50 INNER BELT RD	9
10 AVON ST	8
25 MANSFIELD ST	7
BOX 3294/ MYSTIC TOWERS	7
25 BONAIR ST	6
70 PARK ST	6

### 3. FIRE – FY06 Accomplishments & Initiatives

- **Brought 25 properties that had previously ignored the smoke detector regulations into compliance.**
- **Participated in Neighborhood Impact Team (NIT) work:**
  - Eliminated many fire hazards

#### **Fire Activity: Recent NIT Incidents (*blue markers*)**

•**April 18<sup>th</sup>:** 9 Pitman Street. Row of block garages in disrepair also single garage with roof caving in and full of debris. Met on site with owner's son on April 25. All buildings have been demolished.

•**April 18<sup>th</sup>:** 27 Porter Street. Barn falling down. Owner had demo permit but was having a very difficult time getting sign offs. With assistance building was demolished that Friday April 21, 2006.

•**April 25<sup>th</sup>:** Follow up at 406 Mystic Avenue. Owner has constructed a two hour fire separation wall. Smoke detector compliance to follow.

•**May 2<sup>nd</sup>:** 142 West Adams Street. Multiple violations in building occupied by students. Fire alarm system not functioning properly, exit blocked, no CO detectors. Ticket issued for 5 violations.

•**May 2<sup>nd</sup>:** 11 Broomfield Road. Multiple violations in building occupied by students. Fire alarm system not functioning properly, exit stairway blocked, no CO detectors, propane stored inside. Recover stolen Powder House Square sign. Ticket issued for 5 violations.

•**June 6<sup>th</sup>:** 93 Broadway. Illegal basement apartment located in commercial building. In process of having unit removed.

•**June 6<sup>th</sup>:** 38-40 Michigan Avenue. Illegal basement apartment in 2 family residential building. Meeting with owner on 6-13-06.

•**May 9<sup>th</sup>:** 17-27 Village Street. Construction project with unsafe conditions, vacant building with utilities now shut off, business with conditions dangerous to firefighters placarded.

## 4. FIRE – FY06 Accomplishments & Initiatives

- **Nicole's Law, regarding carbon monoxide detectors, took effect on April 1, 2006.**

### CONSUMER'S GUIDE TO MASSACHUSETTS REQUIREMENTS FOR CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

*In November 2005, Governor Mitt Romney signed "Nicole's Law" which places certain requirements on owners of all residential properties to install and maintain carbon monoxide (CO) alarms. The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations has developed the regulations (527 CMR 31.00) establishing the specific requirements of the law including the type, location, maintenance and inspection requirements for the alarms.*

#### Who Is Impacted by this Law?

*Generally speaking anyone who owns residential property regardless of size (i.e., 1- & 2-family homes, multi-family buildings, apartments, condominiums and townhouses, etc.) that contains fossil burning fuel equipment (i.e., oil, gas, wood, coal, etc.) OR contains enclosed parking (i.e., attached or enclosed garage) in Massachusetts, is required to install CO alarms by March 31, 2006. In certain limited instances (see below), the installation requirements are deferred until January 1, 2007.*

#### What Do I Have to Do?

Install CO alarms on every level of your home except for basements and attics that do not have habitable living spaces (i.e., family rooms, dens, etc.) by March 31, 2006.

#### What Kinds of CO Alarms Are Allowed?

There are several types of alarms that are allowed; they include:

- Battery powered with battery monitoring;
- Plug-in (AC powered) units with battery backup;

- AC primary power (hard-wired – usually involves hiring an electrician) with battery backup;
- Low-voltage or wireless alarms; and
- Qualified combination smoke detectors and CO alarms.

#### What Are Qualified Combination Detectors and Alarms?

Acceptable combination smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms must have simulated voice and tone alarms that clearly distinguish between the two types of emergencies. If you have questions about various types of smoke detectors, contact your local fire department.

#### What Am I Required to Do if I'm a Landlord?

Landlords must install CO alarms in each dwelling unit. Landlords also must inspect, test and maintain the CO alarms at least once a year or at the beginning of any rental period (such as lease renewal). Batteries are required to be replaced once a year. **Tenants** should report any problems with alarms to the landlord immediately and learn to recognize the difference between the smoke detector and the carbon monoxide alarm.

#### What Are Alternative Compliance Options?

The regulation allows for alternative compliance options that may be more practical for larger buildings with multiple dwelling units that contain minimal or no sources of CO inside the individual units. The option allows owners to target the CO alarm protection in only those areas

(i.e., rooms that contain boilers, hot water heaters, central laundry areas and all adjacent spaces, in addition to enclosed parking areas) that could be potential sources of the CO. This CO protection option requires hard-wiring or low-voltage wiring, monitoring (i.e., by an alarm company) and certain signal transmission requirements.

#### What Are the Limited Instances Where I Don't Have to Install CO Alarms until January 1, 2007?

Owners of residential buildings that notify the local fire department and choose the alternative compliance option and buildings owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (i.e., public housing units) will not be required to install CO alarms until January 1, 2007.

#### Where Do I Have To Put These CO Alarms?

In most residences, carbon monoxide alarms are required to be located on every level of a home or dwelling unit including habitable portions of basements and attics. On levels with sleeping areas the alarms must be placed within ten feet of the bedroom doors.

CO alarms do not go inside garages, but in the adjacent living areas.

#### When Do I Have to Install CO Alarms?

Most residences are required to install CO alarms by March 31, 2006. After that date anyone who sells their property will be required to have an inspection by the fire department prior to the sale or transfer of their property.

## **5. FIRE – FY06 Accomplishments & Initiatives**

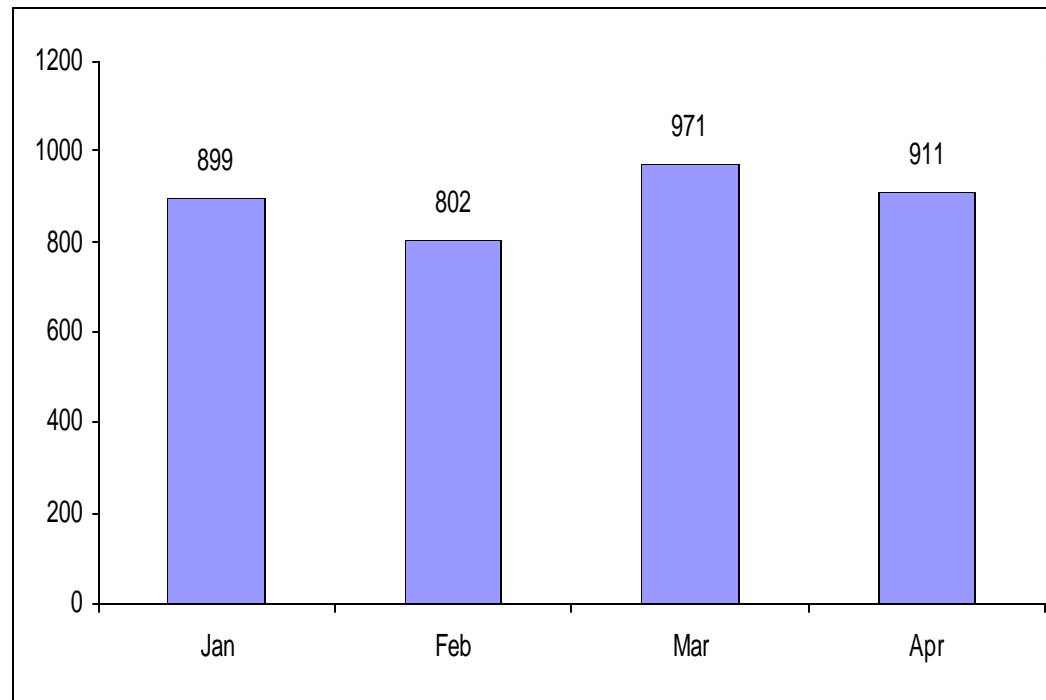
- **Implemented new “places of public assembly” laws**
- **Completed 90 joint inspections with ISD for establishments serving liquor**
- **Identified 14 businesses requiring installation of sprinklers**
- **Identified 14 businesses requiring upgrade of existing sprinklers**
  - **NFPA - 13 2002 edition**

## 6. FIRE – FY06 Accomplishments & Initiatives

- **Launched Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD):**
  - CAD system became fully operational in Fire Alarm Division on November 1, 2005 for dispatch
  - Responded to 11226 incidents in 2005
    - This resulted in 18103 responses by emergency vehicles.

### Calls by Month

*(1/1/06 – 4/30/06)*





## 7. FIRE – FY06 Accomplishments & Initiatives

- **Fire Building Maintenance:**
  - Procured services of county prisoners to paint fire stations at *no labor cost to the City* in response to concerns about maintenance of Fire buildings
  - Prisoners will return after July 1<sup>st</sup> for additional work at Fire Station Headquarters





## **8. FIRE – FY06 Accomplishments & Initiatives**

- **Coordinated multi-city effort to obtain funding for the 10 identified disciplines in the community (Police, Fire, DPW, Health, etc.) as the point of contact for the Boston Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI).**
- **All staff received training in Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Awareness, National Incident Management System (NIMS-700), Incident Command System (ICS-100); one company received training to the operational level in WMD Radiological/Nuclear Response.**

## 9. FIRE – FY06 Accomplishments & Initiatives

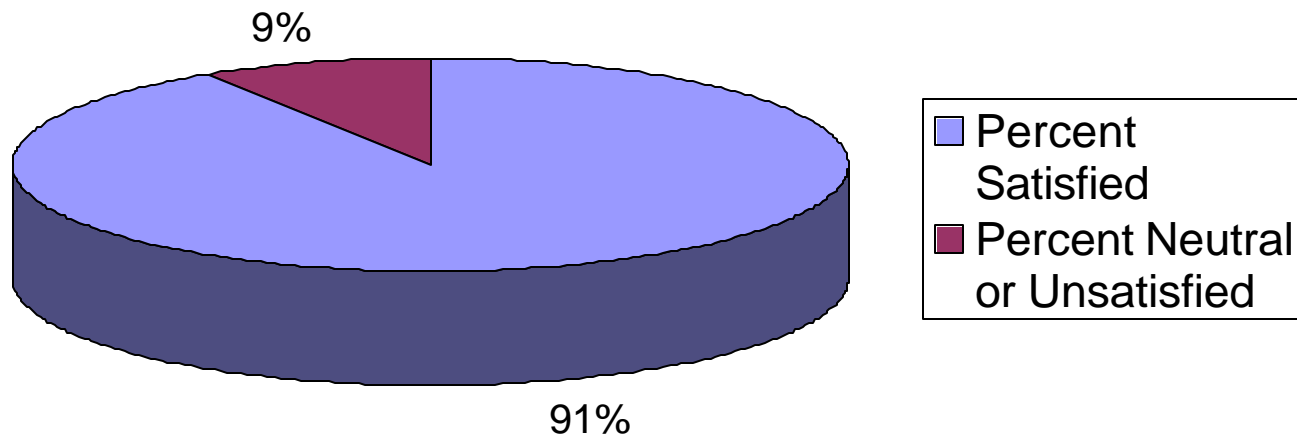
- **Began implementation of wellness program for firefighters.**
  - Grant funded
  - Cooperative effort between firefighters and the City
  - Coordinated by the Tufts University Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy



## 10. FIRE – FY06 Accomplishments & Initiatives

- **Achieved high level of satisfaction in residential survey**

**91%** percent of residents surveyed expressing an opinion are satisfied with fire services in Somerville



## 11. FIRE – FY07 Goals

- **Expansion of CAD system**
  - Include more response information, such as nearest hydrant and location of Department's sprinkler connections.
  - Develop database of community residents in need of assistance in the event of an emergency at their home.



## 12. FIRE – FY07 Goals

- **Networking**
  - Interconnection of the five fire stations by the IT Department
    - Computerized fire report
    - E-mail for all personnel

## 13. FIRE – FY07 Goals

- **Utilize the non-criminal disposition ticketing process**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> offense: warning or \$100 fine
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: \$500 fine
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: \$1,000 fine



## 14. FIRE – FY07 Goals

- **Fire Prevention:**

- Compel an additional 25 properties to become compliant with the smoke detector requirements
- Achieve 100 percent compliance in the community long-term
- Educate people on Nicole's Law